

WYCOMBE W. GO DOWN FIGHTING

Oxford Mail Special Report

AN early goal by the visitors jolted a tired-looking Wycombe Wanderers team in their Isthmian League game against Corinthian-Casuals, but Wycombe fought back strongly to enliven the game but had to concede both points.

Wycombe W: Maskell; Roystone, Beck; Baker, Rundle, Gale; Samuels, Thompson, Bates, Horseman, Merrick.

C Casuals: James; Durham, Bunker; Richardson, Joy, Wilson; Moore, Jackson, Pinkney, Phillips, Joyce.

Referee: J Reid (Morden).

Casuals showed plenty of spirit early on, and the Wycombe goalkeeper Maskell was more often under fire than his opposite number. Wycombe showed little enterprise in the forward line and their attacks were quickly broken up by a hard-working Casuals half-back line.

It came as little surprise when in the 13th minute the visitors forged through on the right wing and inside left PHILLIPS put them ahead.

The goal shook Wycombe from their apathy, and for a time they had the Casuals goal under fierce pressure with Bates and Horseman constantly harassing the goalkeeper, James.

After 22 minutes BATES, the most persistent Wycombe raider, equalised with a left-foot drive from Horseman's pass.

Two minutes afterwards, Bates almost scored again with a right wing shot from an oblique angle, and then Maskell saved the Wanderers with a brilliant clearance from a long-range drive by Moore.

Half-time: Wycombe W. 1; Casuals 1.

In his best form, centre-forward PAUL BATES electrified the start of the second half with a brilliant solo run half the length of the field to give Wycombe the lead with a spectacular goal in the 48th

minute.

Wycombe were now producing something of their old match-winning form, but the Casuals, with Joy playing a dominating role at centre-half, maintained a stubborn defence and their forwards hit back with some determined attacks to keep the issue well open.



BATES BOOSTS WYCOMBE

Wycombe 2 Cor.-Casuals 1
CENTRE FORWARD Bates, still one of the Isthmian League's most accomplished marksmen, again proved Wycombe Wanderers' match-winner against determined Corinthian-Casuals.

By their stubborn defence and persistent counter attacks Casuals kept Wycombe at full stretch and the issue open throughout.

Casuals started much more competently than a somewhat tired-looking home side, but a goal after 12 minutes from left-winger Moore jolted the Wanderers out of their lethargy and Bates equalised midway through the first half.

A spectacular goal from Bates, after a solo run half the length of the field, put Wycombe ahead three minutes after the interval. Although they had a good deal more of the play they were unable again to pierce the powerful defence well marshalled by Joy.

Wycombe were often forced on to defend themselves by a lively Casuals forward line in which inside forwards Phillips and Jackson were outstanding.